

## Mishkan Dolores

### Phase II Fundraising Kicks Off

—Ellie Cohen, Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign Chair

**M**azel tov to us all! In March, we reached our Phase I Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign goal of \$1.3 million pledged (with over \$600,000 cash received). In a little more than one year, our community has enthusiastically answered the call to build our new Mishkan! Almost 80% of our member households responded with individual pledges ranging from \$10 to \$90,000 (with an average pledge of approximately \$4,300).

It is because of this extraordinary commitment of our community that our campaign is working. In addition, almost 300 community supporters have donated close to \$80,000. Our success to date is a fabulous achievement and one we should all be proud of!

We are now kicking off Phase II to secure the remaining funds needed to finish the renovations of our new home. As you may have read in the March *Jewish Gaily Forward*, our new goal is \$450,000. New member pledges, foundation funding and additional increased/accelerated gifts from others who have already pledged are the key to Phase II.

Over \$30,000 has already been pledged towards our new goal as of early April. A number of members increased their gifts by 20%-50% (some by adding a year or two to their payment schedule). In addition, many members accelerated payments to help reduce the amount of interest owed on our cash loans.

There are several dozen new CSZ members (and a handful of ongoing members) who may not have been contacted yet. If you would like to speak to someone about a gift or you can help with solicitations or any aspect of foundation fundraising, please call Ellie Cohen (455-0416), Lisa Katz (821-7746) or Tiela Chalmers (386-6738). Remem-

*Continued on page 8*

## Israel's 50th Birthday and the Gay Cafe

Sha'ar Zahav will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Israel's statehood at a special Yom Ha'atzmaut service on Friday, May 1. We will honor the Israelis in our congregation and have a festive oneg with Israeli dancing and music after services.

An all-day celebration of Israel's 50th birthday will take place on Sunday June 7 in Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park. In the past, Sha'ar Zahav has not been excited about taking part in these types of events for various ideological, philosophical and social reasons. Our Educator, David Shneer, wants to change that! He believes that rather than rejecting any claim a progressive synagogue can make on Israeli culture, it is incumbent upon us to illuminate the diversity of Israeli culture, just as we try to illuminate the diversity of American Jewish culture. Therefore, David is organizing a CSZ booth at the Festival—a gay Tel Aviv cafe, called "Cafe Gay." We will decorate the cafe and serve noshes, but the highlight of the event will be readings of contemporary gay/lesbian/bisexual Hebrew poetry. David needs help putting it together. If you are interested, please contact him at the CSZ office.



Mishkan gets presidential approval! Photo by Michael Bettinger.

## CSZ Interim Space Information

**Contacting us:** Our telephone, fax and e-mail remain the same.

Telephone: (415) 861-6932

Fax: (415) 861-6081

E-mail: [shaarzahav@igc.apc.org](mailto:shaarzahav@igc.apc.org)

Website: [www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org)

**Writing us:** Please send all roster updates, newsletter submissions, dues payments, donations and other materials to our new home. Use this address for writing to us only.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
290 Dolores Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

**Visiting us:** Rabbi Litman and our office staff are sharing space with the staff of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3281 16th Street, catty-corner from our new building. Our drop-in hours are limited. Please call us before dropping by.

**Worship services:** All Shabbat services, except our monthly East Bay service, are being held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Healing services are at Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California Street.

**Meetings:** Va'ad meetings remain open to all members, and are at 345 Church Street. (Church Street Gardens). For the location of committee meetings, contact the chair of the committee.

## Annual Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, May 17 at 3 pm at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Check your mail for the congregational meeting mailing, which will include the new social membership directory.



## Annual Congregational Meeting: Be There

Our annual congregational meeting will be Sunday, May 17. During this meeting, we will elect Va'ad members and officers, adopt the budget for the next year, vote on bylaw amendments and do general congregational business. This year's meeting takes place during an important time for us. We are between homes and in the midst of many exciting and challenging changes. This will



*Diana Buchbinder*

be Rabbi Litman's first annual meeting. We hope, although at the time I am writing this plans are not firm, to be able to tour our new building during the meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend, and to participate in the governance of the synagogue. If monthly committee meetings are not for you, but you wish there were a way to get involved, this is a good place to start. Come, listen and become involved.

You may ask, why take time from a Sunday afternoon, maybe even a sunny Sunday afternoon, to participate in this meeting. The reasons are many. Being present at the annual meeting gives you the opportunity to participate in determining the direction of the congregation for the next year, and to have a hand in shaping the future. The next few years, and the next year in particular, will mean major changes for CSZ. We will complete construction on our new home, make the move to the building and begin establishing ourselves in that home. The excitement and opportunity of the two major transforming events in the last year—the new building and the arrival of Rabbi Litman—will continue with the move and with our ability to be all together again for services, programming and education. There will surely be the customary celebrations and hoopla, but there will also be challenges. By attending the meeting, you will be able to hear what the leadership envisions for the coming year, and to voice your opinion.

Do not be fooled, however; I encourage you to attend for another reason as well. As president, it is important that I hear from as many members as possible.

With the range of activities in our congregation, it is a challenge for me, or the other officers, to be at every event, and I know there are many members with whom we do not get to connect. This meeting is one more place where we can gather as a community and engage in the work of making our synagogue a place which reflects our values. Your presence at the congregational meeting will not only assure you your own personal copy of the congregational budget, but you may even be able, by the end of the meeting, to put faces to some of those names you hear so often. I look forward to seeing you there.

## Calling All Camcorders

CSZ's Oral History Committee is looking for an 8 mm or hi-8 mm camcorder, but can also use any VHS format video camera/recorders. Whatever you have we'll put to good use recording synagogue events and members' oral histories. If you can help us out, please call Rob Tat (861-2350).

## Wisdom From Our Preschoolers

March Tot Shabbat focused on the themes of Passover. The little ones had their own ideas about the Exodus story. How did the Israelites bake the matzah when they were in a hurry to leave Egypt? Hannah Pines-Schwartz said, "They put it in the microwave!" When leaders Daniel Chesir and Tiela Chalmers explained that the Israelites were scared to cross the Red Sea because they couldn't swim, Irina Prussin, asked "Why didn't they bring their floaties?" They didn't need the miracle of parting the Red Sea, they only needed floaties!

If you want to experience the pearls of wisdom from tomorrow's leaders first hand, join toddlers, preschoolers and their families at Tot Shabbat on May 29 at St. Matthew's. Families will join together at 6:30 pm for a brown bag Shabbat dinner followed at 7:15 pm by a service led by Greta Miskatel focusing on Jewish geography and the 50th birthday of the State of Israel. If you have questions, call Renée in the synagogue office.

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## Restoring the Omer and Ourselves

Sometimes we imagine that we are the first generation of Jews to create new interpretations of Judaism. We believe that our discontent, our dis-ease, with outdated and irrelevant Jewish "tradition" emerges from our contemporary politics or secular learning. Or that innovation began, if not with us, then certainly within the last hundred or so years as an outgrowth of the Reform Movement in its encounter with modernity.



Rabbi Jane Litman

Some of the most profound reinterpretations of Jewish tradition, however, did not grow from the Reform critique of rituals which had lost all meaning. Rather, they came about in an earlier era as Jewish mystics engaged a system which did not speak to their symbolic sensibilities. The mystics' problem wasn't the "outdated superstition," decried by 19th century rationalists, but the lack of spirituality in the detailed analytical system of text study which had become the primary mode of Jewish expression (at least for men).

These mystics, the Kabbalists, were not timid in their changes. Liturgy, ritual, study, torah interpretation and theology underwent dramatic revision as the Jewish mystics searched for ways to express their religious vision. One example of this change is in the ritual of counting the Omer, the period between Passover (which commemorates the Jewish liberation from slavery) and Shavuot (which celebrates the covenant of Torah first observed at Mount Sinai).

Originally, in the ancient world, the Omer was an agricultural ritual which marked the period of the imminent wheat harvest. Every day after the full moon of the Passover celebration, for seven weeks, an additional maturing sheaf of wheat was added to a daily offering of sheaves. The 50th day began the wheat harvest. The two natural holy days which began and ended the Omer (the full moon of spring and the wheat harvest) were tied to quasi-historical events of the Jewish sacred year, the Exodus and Revelation.

By the time of the Kabbalists, Jews

had long ceased living by the agricultural cycles of holy days such as the Omer. Rabbinic texts spent a great deal of time and intellectual energy in precise debate over small historical and ritual concerns regarding the theoretical observance of the Omer, but its spiritual significance—the awe and wonder of nature—was largely unheeded.

The Kabbalists reconceptualized the Omer as a period of closeness between "heaven" and earth, when the mysteries of creation were reenacted, in an intense preparation for Shavuot. According to their theology, the universe came into being through a series of Eternal emanations (*sefirot*). In their eyes, the period of the Omer was filled with these specific Divine effulgences. Humans understand these sacred radiances as moral attributes. Each week of

*Continued on page 11*

## Service Exchange With St. Matthew's

We have been guests in St. Matthew's Lutheran Church now for nearly six months. This month, we have the opportunity to learn and experience how our host congregation worships and also welcome them to learn and experience our Shabbat services. This unique interfaith experience will be composed of four different events. First, on Tuesday, May 19 at 7 pm, Rabbi Litman will teach about Jewish rituals, liturgy and "what happens at services." The following Tuesday, May 26 at 7 pm, Pastor Susanne Bombosch will teach a parallel class on Lutheran rituals, liturgy and services. These two sessions are intended to prepare each community for a fabulous weekend of worship exchange.

On Friday evening, June 5, Sha'ar Zahav will welcome members of the St. Matthew's community to our regular 8:15 Shabbat service at which Pastor Bombasche will give the sermon. On Sunday morning, June 7, at 10:30 am, Sha'ar Zahav members are invited to attend St. Matthew's Sabbath service at which Rabbi Litman will give the sermon. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to get to know our hosts and future neighbors. All the events will be held at St. Matthew's.

## Rabbi News

On May 7, Rabbi Litman will speak at Stanford Hillel on "Feminist Judaism: Past, Present & Future."

On May 8, Rabbi Litman will deliver a sermon entitled "Turn It and Turn It, Everything in It: A Modern Guide to Torah Interpretation."

On May 29, Rabbi Litman's sermon will be "Standing Again at Sinai: The Holiday of Shavuot."

Rabbi Litman has joined the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation Advisory Group on Domestic Violence.

Every year, Rabbi Litman spends Memorial Day weekend in New York with a group of Jewish women known as *b'not esh* (daughters of fire). Many of the pioneers of Jewish feminism and gay rights, such as Judith Plaskow, Rebecca Alpert, Sue Levy Elwell and Julie Greenberg attend this event.

## Torah Study Schedule

Torah study will take place from 9:30 - 10:30 am during May according to the following schedule.

May 2, Congregation Emanu-El (2 Lake Street at Arguello Blvd.), leader: TBA

May 9, St. Matthew's, leader: Rabbi Litman

May 16, Congregation Emanu-El, leader: Rabbi Litman

May 23, 127 Madrid Street, 841-0262, leader: Robin Leonard

May 30, No Torah Study (*Tikkun Leil Shavuot* study session in the evening)

## New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Yeva Johnson and Michael Potter

Troy Cascia

Susan Kirshbaum and Kathleen Rosaria

Karin Rubenstein and Lana Junger

Richard Weiner

Hillel Meyer

Judith Bell, James Greenberg and Emma Greenberg-Bell

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.



## March Va'ad Minutes

*Joe Hample, Acting Recorder*

The D'var Torah was given by Renée Bauer. UAHC president Eric Yoffe has called for a renewed commitment to Torah study. The blessing for Torah study, *la'asok b'divrei torah*, means "to engage in the words of Torah." This shows that study is incomplete without action. Thus, a broad range of our Jewish and synagogue activities should be thought of as forms of Torah study.

Rabbi Litman's Report was given for her by Lea Salem (Rabbi Litman was out of town). We've had five new babies, one shiv'ah, one bat mitzvah (with another imminent), and two new entrants into the Covenant.

President Diana Buchbinder reported that we now have our building permits for Mishkan Dolores.

Renée Bauer in her program director's report gave an update on the planned Purim party, Women's History Month events, Pesach celebrations and the calendar for First Generation.

Lea Salem, in her administrator's report, indicated that CSZ materials in interim storage have been moved from John Atteridg's home to Irene Ogus's premises. The Va'ad extends its thanks to both John and Irene for generously donating this storage space.

For fiscal year 1997-98, treasurer Arthur Slepian reported that revenue for dues are estimated to be about \$10,000 less than what was projected in the budget. The dues shortfall is offset

by unusually high revenues from High Holidays and interest income, so that total revenue will be right on budget.

For fiscal year 1998-99, treasurer Arthur Slepian reported that the budget proposes a significant increase in dues, offset by decreases in interest income and High Holiday revenues. The overall expense growth is more than \$30,000. The budget generates no significant surplus or deficit. New revenues plus \$20,000 from restricted funds will cover all anticipated costs.

Arthur thanked the Finance Committee and office staff, and all who attended the recent budget meeting. There's a need to focus on CSZ's larger expenses and spending priorities: Mishkan Dolores, education and youth programming and social action.

To increase revenues, we need to add about 40 new members in the coming year. Jacob Rothman is researching how other synagogues recruit new members.

In the coming year, we'll spend a little more for the staff, building and programming. Some things will cost more at Mishkan than at Danvers: insurance, utilities, elevator inspection, janitorial service and security. The new UAHC dues policy begins next year and seems to work in our favor.

The Va'ad expressed cautious optimism that this budget is realistic, and sincere thanks to Arthur for a very thorough and accessible budget presentation.

The Va'ad ended the meeting with a rousing rendition of Oseh Shalom.

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Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, nonmembers will receive a *Forward* subscription.

### Members of the Newsletter Committee

*Chair and Editorial Coordinator:* Robin Leonard

*Layout Coordinator:* Rose Katz

*Editing/Proofreading/Layout:* Brian Jersky, Batya Kalis, Laura Lowe, Sarah Nathe, Jacob Rothman, Karen Schiller, Sam Thal, Tory Weiser

*Photography:* Michael Bettinger

*Advertising:* Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net)

*Typesetting:* David Lester, Mouse Type Inc.

*Printing:* Genesis Printing & Graphics

*Distribution:* Mail It Right

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**Classified Ads** are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California 94103, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

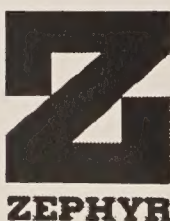
May 1998/Volume 21, Issue 9.



Greta Miskatel and Joe Hample "star" at Purim celebration. Photo by Renée Bauer.



Thanks to member support,  
I have contributed over  
\$4,000 to Mishkan Dolores.  
Thank you!



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## Ritual Committee News

—Lyssa Friedman

What is a Sha'ar Zahavnik? Describing the typical CSZ member is a little like describing the average Jew—sure, we all lean in a similar direction, but the minute we open our mouths, an orchestra bursts forth. And as our diversity increases, the challenge is to keep the orchestra in tune—and to find the right key.

How can our services help? In addition to our regular Shabbat and holiday worship, we provide services with outreach to specific congregants.

For example, the early Kabbalat Shabbat service on the first Friday of the month provides a shorter, earlier alternative. The niggun service, on the second Friday, offers a new minhag.

Women come together each month for Rosh Chodesh events. Members of First Generation have suggested a Saturday morning service followed by a men's brunch. Hikers can discuss the Torah portion once a month on Shabbat morning with the Trail Midrash.

Although each of these ritual experiences may be of interest to a specific cohort, everyone is welcome at any CSZ service. Services are scheduled so as not to conflict with each other.

As construction on Mishkan Dolores proceeds, we envision a synagogue alive with study, song, prayer, celebration and, yes, diversity, on Shabbat and throughout the week.

## Journey to the Mountain

### Adult B'nei Mitzvah

—Phyllis Mintzer

We continue to walk this path together. To sweeten our sometimes thorny existence with nourishment from our tradition, we will celebrate a spiritual coming of age, a class for adult Bar and Bat Mitzvah. I will lead four two-hour sessions of study on Shabbat afternoons at 2 pm on May 2, May 16, June 6 and June 13. We will review and discuss readings on ritual, biblical themes in contemporary life, theology and spirituality. Authors will include Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Rabbi Jane Litman and Rabbi Lawrence Kushner. The class will meet at my home, 408 Urbano Drive, in San Francisco, over a *seudah shlishit*. We welcome newcomers who wish to join us in our quest. Call the office to sign up and for a reading list.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### Anniversaries

- |    |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 2  | Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser       |
| 3  | Karen Erlichman and Jana Rickerson  |
| 15 | Carrie Costello and Alex Pekka Hall |
| 15 | Lisa Feldstein and Max Drukman      |
| 16 | Ann Bauman and Kelly Thiemann       |
| 16 | Inbal Kashtan and Kathy Simon       |
| 22 | Phyllis and George Mintzer          |
| 29 | Mark Freeman and Ken White          |
| 31 | Ilana Bernstein and Diane Desmond   |

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## New Members' Potluck and Welcome

Whether you are a new member of Sha'ar Zahav, a not-so-new member or a seasoned participant, the Membership Committee invites you to a potluck on Sunday, May 3, 4-6 pm. Come meet and talk with Rabbi Litman, CSZ President Diana Buchbinder and other CSZ leaders and long-time members. This is your chance to learn more about Sha'ar Zahav and opportunities to become more involved, schmooze with other CSZ'niks and, of course, eat great food! The potluck will be in the community room at 345 Church Street (between 15th and 16th streets), behind the home of Alex Ingersoll and David Stein.

Please bring a vegetarian or dairy dish or a dessert—enough to share with about six other people. Children, partners, family and friends are warmly welcome. For more information and to RSVP, call Sara Haber (621-1248) or Ami Zusman (510/339-6143).

Also, as part of Shabbat services on Friday, May 8, we will recognize and welcome those members who have joined the Sha'ar Zahav community during the previous half year. The Membership Committee will sponsor the Oneg following services in their honor. Please come!

## Purim 5758: An Evening with the Stars

Purim this year was full of fabulous costumes, show tunes and revelry. Over 100 Sha'ar Zahav folks joined together for an inspiring Megillah reading led by Vashti, aka Joe Hample, Greta Miskatel and Daniel Chesir. Children and adults alike enjoyed the festivities. Participants had a chance to have their pictures taken with their favorite stars and eat their fill of popcorn and Hamentashen. This special evening could not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of this year's Purim committee: Sam Messler, Michael Shaps, Fran Frohlich, Julie La Pore and of course our three Megillah readers. Additionally, deep appreciation goes to the businesses that donated gifts and supplies to our party: Noe Valley Bakery, Echo Home and Garden, The Real Food Company, Just Desserts—Church Street, Just For Fun and Acme Scenery Company.



Greta Miskatel leads the tots at Purim. Photo by Renée Bauer.



## The Hallel: On Victory and Love

—Nina Wouk

The Hallel, which is recited on Shavuot, Pesach, Sukkot, Rosh Chodesh, and at Sha'ar Zahav on Shabbat Freedom, climaxes with Psalm 118. Read straight through, the psalm is clearly a song of thanksgiving for military victory. Its use in the Hallel, however, transforms both its structure and its meaning, without altering a single word.

In the days of the Temple, the Hallel was used to celebrate occasions of national thanksgiving, such as the pilgrimage festivals and military triumphs. At CSZ, we use it much the same way—to commemorate God's mighty hand, as shown in the Stonewall uprising. However, for most of the last 2,000 years, Jews were stateless and unarmed, and our victories seldom consisted of more than simple survival. Our ritual calendar endured, but was transformed. As the three pilgrimage festivals, Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot, became home and synagogue celebrations, the ancient praise-songs came to express new meanings.

In the Hallel, Psalm 118 is divided musically into three distinct sections. The triple structure recalls the three courts of the Jerusalem Temple. Thus, when hope of restoring the Temple ritual had vanished, the concluding psalm of the Hallel became an image of the pilgrimage to the altar that once legitimized every festival meal. Each musical change brings the worshipper closer to the central court, the place of the altar where offerings were made, offerings called *korbanot*, things brought close.

The first section, verses 1-4, consists of simple thanksgiving, repeated first by the Israelites, then by the priests, and then by all who have come to the Temple to celebrate. The second section, verses 5-18, describes a military victory against desperate odds.

The third section, verses 19-29, has its own tripartite structure, which evokes both the Temple and, more subtly, three different phases of an encounter between lovers: acceptance, surrender and union. This made sense to the rabbinic imagination, which understood the Song of Songs as an allegory of prayer. It can make sense to us now. However, it is far from the original intent.

Verses 19-29 once accompanied the

animal sacrifices that our ancestors presented, in pride and gratitude, to mark their deliverances from danger. The public ending of life was meant to stir an appreciation of mortality and eternity, and to infuse the ensuing feast with gratitude for life. According to the Talmud, bringing sacrifices used to "gladden (people's) hearts."

With the end of the sacrificial Temple ritual, Jewish sensibilities began to change; the idea of priests cutting animals' throats and splashing their blood deliberately around the altar gradually became bizarre and repulsive, losing its spiritual depth. But the end of sacrifice didn't mean the end of its songs.

In the Hallel, verses 19-29 assume a different, more pensive tune and mood, beginning with the line "*Pitchu-li sha'arei tzedek*"—"Open to me the gates of righteousness that I may come and worship God." This line may have been the ritual invocation of a worshipper arriving at the Temple, and verse 20 may have been the priestly doorkeeper's response: "This is God's gate; only the righteous may enter here."

Perhaps in the days of the Temple, these lines were a boast: Because God granted me victory, I obviously am righteous and deserve to enter God's holy place. But in the Hallel, sung slowly and pensively, they become an individual challenge: Is each of us worthy to come close to what we account most eternal, most vital, most holy? These verses become an expression of desire that may or may not be fulfilled.

Verse 21 shows that the gates of acceptance have opened: "I will thank you because you answered me." In the first court of the metaphorical Temple, incredibly, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this is from God, miraculous in our eyes" (verses 22-23). Thanks to a traditional principal of Torah interpretation which allows any line to be removed from its original context, the miracle becomes not victory but intimacy.

Verses 25 and 26 frame the second court, the court of surrender. This part of the Hallel is sung responsively, leader and congregation successively acknowledging dependency on, and trust in, a power beyond our control. Asking for first help and then prosperity, these in-

*Continued on page 11*

## Lag B'Omer: A Bonfire on the Beach

Lag B'Omer, literally the 33rd day of the Omer, is a minor spring festival that falls in mid-May this year. The Omer is the 50 days counted between Passover and Shavuot. There is a tradition of observing mourning customs during the Omer period. The most common explanation of this tradition is that disciples of Rabbi Akiva died in a plague during this period in the second century C.E. because they did not treat each other with proper respect. Lag B'Omer marks the end of this plague and therefore the end of the mourning period.

Today, Lag B'Omer is celebrated most vibrantly in Israel with special outdoor activities, especially festive bonfires. This year, CSZ will mark this festival according to the Israeli tradition by having a bonfire. La'atid is organizing a bonfire on the beach for the entire community on Saturday, May 16. We will meet for Havdallah at 7:45 pm at Ocean Beach where Judah Street meets the Great Highway, followed by a bonfire with s'mores, potatoes (an Israeli favorite) and plenty of singing. To RSVP or for more information, call Renée in the CSZ office.

## CSZ and Beth Sholom Women's Retreat

It was the way the world should always be. Purple wildflowers blooming on hillsides of lush green grass, scrumptious vegetarian meals, hot tubbing under the stars, spirit-filled Shabbat services, study sessions with Rabbi Litman, an art project for the creatively challenged, heterosexual women and queer women enjoying each other's company, Reform and Conservative Jews praying together.

On the weekend of March 27-29, women from Beth Sholom, Sha'ar Zahav and even a few from Or Shalom and Sherith Israel came together to celebrate and explore the meaning of Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh and Jewish womanhood. In a world of fragmented Jewish communities, this weekend was a model of Kl'al Israel, a united Jewish people. We hope CSZ members will have the opportunity to participate in similar programs in order to connect with other Jews in our community.



## Children's Education Board Minutes

**Present:** Ruth Raneiro (chair), Lisa Katz, Mary Morgan, Ron Lezell, Ora Prochovnik, Howard Herman, Stacey Shuster and David Shneer (Educator).

The main item on the agenda was the issue of adding a midweek class. After agreeing that adding a midweek class to Kadimah was a good idea, the CEB discussed many issues:

- Should a midweek Hebrew class be mandatory?
- Should it be solely devoted to Hebrew?
- What about the East Bay contingent?
- What is the philosophy behind adding the class?

David offered the pedagogical and philosophical reasons behind adding a midweek class:

- it would better prepare our students for B'nai Mitzvah
- it confirms our belief that Hebrew is an important part of Jewish literacy, and
- it would bring our program up to the standards of other congregations in the Bay Area.

Concerns were raised about implementation—specifically, how to accommodate parents and children who could not attend a midweek class, and whether to encourage East Bay children to come to San Francisco or hold East Bay Hebrew classes.

David explained why an additional Hebrew class during the last two years of Kadimah is necessary. By having Hebrew midweek and Judaica on the weekend, teachers can spend an intense two hours with the students studying both liturgical and conversational Hebrew. Although the students would not study Hebrew formally on Saturday, they would use Hebrew during Saturday morning services. In addition, by focusing Saturday's curriculum on Judaica, Kadimah might attract some CSZ students who already know Hebrew or are studying it independently, and often choose not to attend Kadimah because they are bored during the Hebrew lessons. If Hebrew classes are taught midweek, those students could participate in Kadimah on Saturdays without being bored.

Because a midweek class will be a substantial change in the Kadimah cur-

riculum and in cost for those grades (the tuition for those grades will go up by about \$150), we need parental input as to how to make this transition as smooth as possible. We will hold an all-parent meeting on May 16 to discuss these issues. Parents with questions, concerns or comments are encouraged to contact David or a CEB member.

Interested in being considered for a slot on the CEB? This fall there will be at least one opening on the Board. Interested congregants should contact Ruth Raneiro (681-0180), chair of the Board. All Board appointments are made by CSZ's president.

May calendar:

- May 2 – The Chaverim, Rishonim and B'nai Mitzvah classes will have a special tour of the children's Holocaust exhibit, "Daniel's Story." Parents interested in attending should contact David at the CSZ office.
- May 4 – Next CEB meeting. Contact David for location information.
- May 9 – Kadimah Open House from 11:15-12:15. Contact David for details.
- May 16 – Regular classes.
- May 23 – No classes, Memorial Day Recess.
- May 30 – Closing Day Shavuot Picnic with Tot Shabbat.

## Internal Diversity Dialogue I:

### Men at CSZ

There is an increasingly diverse mixture of people who make up the CSZ community. We now include a wide range of ages, a balance of men and women, a variety of sexual orientations and family groupings. CSZ's Talmud Torah/Adult Education committee is hosting a series of discussions with members to create deeper understanding among our diverse population. The first in this series of dialogues will take place on May 3 at 7 pm at Church Street Gardens, 345 Church Street, and will focus on what it means to be a man at CSZ. There will be a varied panel of men who will share their stories and create a starting point for discussion with the audience. All are encouraged to attend. If you have further questions, call Renée in the CSZ office.

## First Generation

First Generation was founded this past February as a new social group for CSZ men, especially those over 40. The group sponsors Torah brunches the last Saturday of each month and cocktail hours the first Thursday of each month. The following events are scheduled for May.

- Cocktail Hour, 5:30 pm, Thursday, May 7. View Lounge Bar, Marriott Hotel, 55 Fourth Street (at Mission), San Francisco.

- Paramount Theatre tour, 9:45 am, Saturday, May 16. Broadway between 20th and 21st Streets, downtown Oakland (near 19th Street Oakland BART station). For more information or to carpool, call Rich Krieg (826-5464).

- Torah Brunch, 10 am, Saturday, May 30. Location to be announced.

To join the First Generation mailing list, please call Joe Hample (621-7675).

## Kadimah Open House

The Kadimah staff invites all parents and children interested in joining the school for the upcoming year to come to Kadimah on Saturday, May 9 from 11:15 am-12:15 pm. From 11:15-11:45, children will sit in on the age-appropriate class while parents will meet with our Educator, David Shneer, and the Children's Education Board chair, Ruth Raneiro. From 11:45-noon, all classes will come together for closing circle. And from noon-12:15, parents will have a chance to meet the teachers and Rabbi Litman. Although Kadimah enrollment is open to CSZ members only, prospective members are strongly encouraged to come. If you would like to participate, please contact David Shneer at the CSZ office by Monday, May 4.

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## Mishkan

*Continued from page 1*  
ber, pledges can be paid out over five years, in monthly, quarterly or annual installments.

If you have pledged already and are in position to consider giving more, please let us know. Perhaps you are able to add another year onto your payments, increasing your pledge by 20%. Or maybe you want to contribute appreciated stock and receive a significant tax deduction while supporting the building campaign. If so, please call CSZ's treasurer, Arthur Slepian (452-9143) or Ron Lezell (626-5748).

Those of us who attended the Open House on April 5 saw how our collective effort is turning 290 Dolores into a dream come true. Thanks again to everyone who has already donated or pledged, and to all who have volunteered. And a very special thanks to those who have generously increased and/or accelerated their pledges.

## Naches

To **Jerry Rosenstein**, on being honored by Jewish Family and Children's Services at their Spring Gala for his many community accomplishments.

To **Jose Luis Moscovich and Robert Schwartz**, on being invited to do a benefit for the Rosario Opera Festival through the San Francisco Camerata, in Rosario, Argentina.

To (our former member) **Ellen Lewin**, on the upcoming publication of her new book, *Recognizing Ourselves: Ceremonies of Lesbian and Gay Commitment*. Ellen will be reading from the book at Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia Street, on June 10, at 7:30 pm.

To **Ellen Litman**, on the birth of her granddaughter, Madelyn Sarah Valdez.

## Meet Our Neighbors

—Sarita Groisser

On the same block as our new Mishkan are two wonderful facilities run by Dolores Street Community Services: a homeless shelter and a residence for people with AIDS.

The Dolores Housing Program, at the corner of 15th and Dolores streets, provides food and shelter for 25 Latino day laborers. In a small haimishe basement, these men are given a hot dinner, a shower, a bed and a drop-in center. They would welcome volunteers to help with the preparation of dinner, as well as donations of blankets, men's clothes and personal items.

Next door to the shelter is the Richard M. Cohen Residence, a gorgeous ten-room licensed facility for people with AIDS. Around-the-clock medical care is provided for the clients, who

enjoy a safe and comfortable home. Needs at the Cohen Residence include transportation (of clients and medicines), companionship and gardening. Also, a Jewish resident would appreciate company celebrating Shabbat and other festivals.

The CSZ Tikkun Olam/Social Action Committee will set up ongoing volunteer opportunities at these sites to begin once we settle into our new home. In the meantime, if you can share your time, talents, and/or resources, please contact Sarita Groisser (641-8413). It's a mitzvah!

## Classifieds

**ARE YOU A SOULFUL JEWISH** woman activist interested in a deep exploration of internalized anti-semitism—in community? Women from working class and/or Sephardic or Mizrahi heritage especially encouraged. Call Penny ASAP at 510/482-2284.

**SIX-MONTH SUBLET(S)** in shared flat near 30th and Church. Two rooms available. \$600 in flat; \$400 two flights down. Prefer 35+ lesbians. 415/285-5097.

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**LEARN SPANISH** with the best teacher! Contact Rosalinda del Moral at 487-1631, ext. 2. Llámame!

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## Condolences

We extend our condolences to members who have suffered recent losses:

**Ellen Litman**, on the death of her sister, Beth Benatovich Berenson.

**Dev and Sara Felder Noily**, on the death of their grandfather, Julius Traum.

**Danny Givertz**, on the death of his uncle, Jacob Wish.

**Joanne Hirschmann**, on the death of her uncle, Richard Duffy.

**Marjorie Bennett**, on the death of her grandmother, Shayna Faga.

## For All Things Judaic



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## Personally Shabbat

—Tory Weiser

Robin made me aware of Shabbat even before I decided to convert. We had been dating for a while and Saturdays were always a special day for her. I was intrigued by her devotion to Shabbat. She refused to work and she always made a point of doing something outside and something Jewish. I had never had a special day of rest before or a day devoted to God. I enjoyed sharing her Shabbat.

After I decided to convert, I learned more about Shabbat: that it was a day set aside for rest, for God and at the end, for Havdallah—transitioning into the new week. I began by exploring what my Shabbat would be. It started out as an external day of rest for me, not working if I could help it, spending time with Robin, going for walks with the dogs, doing something outside, running selected errands and celebrating Havdallah (when we remember).

In the months since my decision to convert, my practice of Shabbat has changed dramatically. The external is still essentially the same, but my internal practices have been enriched. I now regard Shabbat as a day of reflection, mindfulness and thankfulness. I reflect on my evolving thoughts and feelings about God, my progress towards conversion and the ways in which I can be a better and more knowledgeable Jew.

I try to be mindful of each activity in which I'm involved and of each part of every activity. As I concentrate on my movements, I'm aware of my breathing, my feelings, my intention and my resolve, turning each activity into a ritual. From there it's a short distance to turn each and every action into a meditation or prayer. I am thankful for

the completion of every task I set for myself.

When I'm outside, I pay particular attention to the quality of the day, whether it's sunny, cloudy, windy, rainy or calm, and let the day sink into my consciousness. When I'm gardening, I'm aware of the smell of the plants I'm working with and the feel of the dirt on my hands. When I'm walking the dogs, I try to be conscious of them as individuals and their reactions to the world. I'm aware of the shadows of trees and houses, the scent of gardens, the peacefulness of the parks we pass through and the brilliance of the colors surrounding us.

On Shabbat I'm more aware of my relationship with Robin, the depth of my feelings for her, the subtleties, the bond we've formed and maintained, the efforts we make to include the other in our own private world and the joy I find in living with her. I am so thankful for the time we have together.

When the day is over, I'm saturated with, and refreshed by, my day of prayer, reflection, meditation and ritual. I know my relationship with God has been strengthened.

## Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored the Oneg Shabbat in recent weeks:

- 3/6 **Ruthy Talansky**, in honor of the wedding of Marian Talansky & Macy Gordon.
- 3/20 **Jhos and Bon Singer**, in honor of Michael Emet Zuri Singer.
- 4/17 **Jerry Rosenstein**, in memory of his family.
- 4/24 **Eli Weinstein**, in honor of his birthday.

## Tikkun Leil Shavuot: All-Night Torah Study

Shavuot is a major Jewish festival that has both historical and agricultural significance. Shavuot marks the end of the grain harvest, which began on Passover, and the beginning of the fruit harvest, which ends on Sukkot. In the days of the Temple, Shavuot was one of the three pilgrimage festivals—Sukkot and Passover being the other two—when a harvest offering was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem. It is also a celebration of the receiving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai, the moment of divine revelation. Customs for the celebration of Shavuot include decorating the synagogue with greenery, eating dairy foods and staying up all night studying Torah.

This year on Shavuot the Reform movement is celebrating a movement-wide renaissance of Torah study. At CSZ, we plan to take part in this celebration by having our first ever all-night study session. We will join together at St. Matthew's on Saturday evening, May 30 at 9 pm for Havdallah followed by a night full of study led by rabbis and teachers in our community. We will study the Book of Ruth and the Ten Commandments, which are traditionally read on Shavuot, among other texts. Staying up all night is our way of symbolically preparing for the revelation at Sinai which took place during the morning of Shavuot. The Kabbalists of Safed also taught that during this intense night of study and preparation, the skies open for a moment at which time God will favorably answer our prayers. We will assure that staying up will be fun and easy with plenty of snacks, lots of coffee, singing and study. We will conclude our celebration with a traditional dairy brunch and sunrise service.

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For more information, or to register, call:

Rachel Biale, LCSW (510) 704-7475, ext. 722

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**East Bay ... 3415 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette  
(510) 284-3945**

**Gene B. Kaufman, Executive Director**



## Contributions

### *Adult Education Fund*

David Stein and Alex Ingersoll, in honor of James Carlson's entrance into the Covenant.  
Lolma Olson, in honor of Daphne Stuart's entrance into the Covenant.

### *Bikkur Cholim Fund*

Karen Erlichman, in memory of Jordan Dixon.  
Michele Sullivan, in memory of Marion LeMeteyer.  
Kirsten Gustavson and Amy Scharf, in memory of Isa Cymrot-Wu.

### *Chesir-Stein Music Fund*

James Carlson.

### *Children's Education Fund*

Jeff Baker and Steven Sternfeld.  
Ron Lezell, in honor of James Carlson's entrance into the Covenant.

### *General Fund*

Allan Berenstein, in honor of Harry Rubin's 80th birthday.  
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Max Radetsky.  
Bryan Freedman and Ron Gregoire, in loving memory of Rabbi Herman Grossman.  
Christopher Powis.  
Clarence McClanahan.  
Colette Patt, in memory of Yvonne Phyllis Patt.  
Ed Lopatin, in memory of Aaron Lopatin.  
Dana Vinicoff, in memory of Alan Vinicoff.  
Daphne Stuart, in honor of Paul Cohen, Phyllis Mintzer, Rabbi Kahn, Rabbi Bergadine, Rabbi Litman and Marilyn O'Keeffe (z"l) for their help with her conversion.  
Ed Lopatin, in memory of Paul Anderson.  
Daphne Stuart, in honor of James Carlson's entrance into the Covenant.  
Gordon Osser, in memory of Gene Valeboe.  
Jeffrey Sherman, in memory of Philip Sherman.  
Jonathan Funk, in memory of Mike Kozlowski.  
Kenneth Kalstein and David Meyer, in memory of Grace Wile.  
Louis Hirschmann, in honor of Rabbi Litman and CSZ's participation in Shabbat across America.  
Louisa Stone.  
Nicole Bloom, in honor of Ruby, Barbara and Dafna Cymrot-Wu.  
Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser, in honor of Dev Felder Noily's acceptance to HUC.  
Sharyn Saslafsky, in honor of James Carlson's entrance into the Covenant.  
Sharyn Saslafsky, in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's being honored by JFCS.  
Shelley Adler, in memory of Shoshana Adler.

Simma Lieberman, in memory of Abraham Lieberman.

Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser, in honor of Sara Felder Noily's successful run of *June Bride*.

Steve Horowitz, in memory of Mike Lipson.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Isabel Fishman.

Larry Wexler, in honor of James Carlson's entrance into the Covenant.

Larry Wexler, in honor of Daphne Stuart's entrance into the Covenant.

Susan Tubbesing, in commemoration of the *yahrzeit* of Ann Kohout.

Terry Rose, in memory of Paul A. Rothchild.

Seth Charney, in memory of Nettie Charney.

Nancy Epstein, in memory of Erwin Epstein.

### *Inclusive Liturgy Fund*

Patricia Lin, in honor of Daphne Stuart's entrance into the Covenant.

### *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*

Arnie Jackson, in memory of Phyllis Litman.

Richard Inlander, in memory of Ted Mendonca.

Melvyn Berenson, in memory of Beth Benatovich Berenson.

Eve Meyer, in memory of Hilda L. Meyer.

Lisa Schiffman.  
James Carlson, in honor of Rabbi Litman, Paul Cohen and Jonathan Funk.

### *Technology Fund*

Mark Vogel and Bill Denebeim, in honor of the naming of Allton Rachel Vogel-Denebeim.

### *Torah Fund*

Mike Rankin.

### *Donations in honor of Phyllis Mintzer's becoming Bat Mitzvah*

Kerin Lieberman.

Allan Berenstein.

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold.

Larry Wexler.

Robert Tat.

Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman.

Alex Ingersoll and David Stein.

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Leonard and Sharon Silverman.

Phyllis and Gene Janoff.

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Bea and Ma'ayan Lieberman.

Batya and Danielle Billinkoff.

Allan Giannini.

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Janis Medina.

### *Mishkan Dolores Fund*

Sam Thal, in honor of Jerry Rosenstein.  
Karyl Noily.

Richard Inlander, in memory of Albert S. Samuels, Jr.

Rose Katz, in memory of Marvin J. Katz.

Sadie Katz, in memory of Marvin J. Katz.

Sarah Nathe, in memory of Ann Kohout.

Janice and Thomas Huseby, in honor of James Carlson's entrance into the Covenant.

Jacqueline H. Quella, in honor of James Carlson's entrance into the Covenant.

Katja Kaiser, in honor of George Mintzer's 75th birthday.

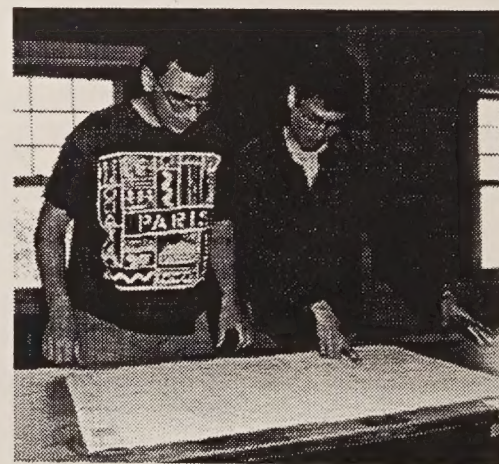
Erwin Furukawa, in honor of James Carlson's entrance into the Covenant.

Roy Huebner, in honor of James Carlson's entrance into the Covenant.

Julie Moed and Shelley Eisenman, in appreciation of CSZ for its support during their evacuation.

Florence and Steve Nacamulli, in honor of Eli Weinstein's birthday.

Thanks also to the CSZ book group, *The Fiction Connection*, for its donation of the *Steinsaltz Edition Talmud, Volume VIII*, in memory of Eugene Valeboe, husband of Carol Cabell.



Geoff Benjamin and Sarita Groisser pore over plans. Photo by Michael Bettinger.



## Rabbi

*Continued from page 3*  
the Omer focuses on one supreme ethical principle, and is divided into seven daily sub-principles.

The principles are: *hesed* (love), *gevurah* (strength), *tiferet* (passion), *netzah* (power), *hod* (magnificance), *yesod* (groundedness) and *malkhut* (responsibility). Each seven-day period of the 49 days of the Omer can be a time to think of a specific Kabbalistic ethic, and each day of the seven-day period is yet another principle. Thus all the spiritual values are contained in each period, and all 49 combinations are aspects of the human soul in relation to the Ultimate. Thus, for example, on the first day of the Omer one meditates on *hesed* within *hesed*, the purest love in Creation. On the second day one thinks of *gevurah* within *hesed*, the love that creates inner strength.

Thus counting the Omer, *sefirat haomer*, becomes a series of moral exercises on *sefirot haolam*, the guiding values of Creation. The literal ritual is redeemed from being a mere intellectual exercise or meaningless artifact of history, and given purpose for the mystics and for us.

### East Bay Services

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## HIV + Support Group

CSZ has ongoing support services each month for members living with HIV/AIDS and their families and partners, in addition to quarterly Shabbat dinners. Mark your calendars:

**Saturday, May 9, 3 pm:** Drop-in support group led by Rabbi Litman.

**Friday, May 29, 6 pm:** Shabbat dinner at the home of a member.

If you have any questions, would like to RSVP for the dinner or would like to receive confidential mailings about spiritual support at Sha'ar Zahav, please call the office.

## Jewish Women and Cancer

As many people have read in recent news articles, new studies show that Ashkenazi Jewish women are at higher risk than the general population for breast and ovarian cancer. Findings show that in some Jewish families these cancers may be due to genetic alterations. New tests are available to screen for these alterations. Yet these tests are controversial because they have some risk and do not guarantee clear results.

Congregation Emanu-El's Sisterhood is sponsoring a presentation by the UCSF/ Mt. Zion Cancer Risk Program entitled, "Hereditary Breast, Ovarian and Colon Cancer: A Panel Discussion on the Current Approaches to Genetic Testing." It will take place Tuesday, May 5, 7:30 pm at Congregation Emanu-El and is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Congregation Emanu-El's Sisterhood (751-2535) or Beth Crawford at the Cancer Risk Program (885-7779).

## Hallel

*Continued from page 6*  
creasingly meditative, repeated lines, hint that whatever the circumstances of any individual life, we can each surrender to God as to a lover.

A quickened joyous tempo marks the entrance to the third court: "Blessed is the one who comes in God's name! ... Bring the offering-animal wreathed with myrtle to the horns of the altar" (verses 26-27). In the Hallel as we know it, the animal with branches symbolizing triumph twined in its horns remains a symbol of physical vitality, but vitality in a different key—a horned animal absorbed, consumed in its union with the horned altar. The concluding verse 29, "Give thanks to God who is good, whose kindness endures forever," takes on a whole new meaning when it follows that moment of ecstatic union. In some congregations, these four lines are recited only silently, perhaps reflecting a conscious appreciation of their sexual/spiritual imagery.

The rabbis who created these images were adult men, most of them married in their early teens, religiously obligated to give their wives sexual pleasure. They combined their familiarity with the rhythms of desire and satisfaction with the ancient victory hymn to both recreate and transform their ancestors' experience, producing the Hallel as we know it. In so doing they showed us how to preserve a ritual while altering its meaning, making it powerful for generations living lives unimaginable to the writers of the ancient liturgy. Experienced as a metaphor, the Hallel becomes a way for us to be close both to our ancestors of Temple and rabbinic times, and to the One whose nearness they too sought.

## JUNE FORWARD DEADLINES

### FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, JUNE 1

To place a display ad, call Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

### FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, JUNE 1

Articles may be e-mailed to Robin Leonard at robinl@nolo.com. Otherwise, please submit your article on both a 3½-inch disk and hard copy on paper double spaced. Write "Attn. Gaily Forward" on top and mail to CSZ. No deadline extensions without advance permission of Robin Leonard (841-0262 or robinl@nolo.com).





## Birthdays

1	Yeva Johnson
2	Rena Frantz
3	Sean Hornby-Finch
3	Julie Stahl
3	Miriam Trentman
4	Eileen Dunn
4	Jeffrey Rubin
5	Colette Patt
6	Aaron Buchbinder
6	Henry Carrey
6	Alison Scott
7	Dianne Hawk
8	Paul Nemrow
8	Shelley Samuels
9	Margarita Bekker
9	Anya Nathanson-Tell
9	Ruth Newstat Dreisbach
10	Gabriele Kassner
12	Kailin Koch
13	Lezlie Frishman
13	Douglas Okun
14	Claire Rappoport
15	Melissa Grossman-Naples
15	Arnie Jackson
16	Inbal Kashtan
16	Stanley Saitowitz
16	Edward Tanovitz
17	Antoinette Rose
17	David Schnur
18	Yona Barth-Rogers
18	David Stein
20	Lillian Schaechner
20	Richard Wilson
21	Lolma Olson
21	Michael Potter
21	Gerald Rosenstein
22	Marilyn Brown
22	Leora Eisenberg
22	Janis Medina
22	Connie Tell
23	Barbara Cymrot
23	Nancy Feinstein
24	Sam Messler
26	Robert Katz
26	Harper Rose
27	Nancy Epstein
28	Sherie Koshover
29	Trudi Hauptman
29	David Sigal
30	Shelley Eisenman
30	Eloise Magenheimer



## Members' Yahrzeits

9	Jack Jacobs
13	David Delroy
14	Thomas Yazman
17	Nanci Stern
19	Allan Altman
21	Jim Perkins
24	David Loebel

## Synagogue Information

**Rabbi Jane Litman**

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(337-6319 or  
threebuchs@sprynet.com)  
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Ellie Cohen  
Jeff Forman  
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Sara Haber  
Joe Hample  
Lisa Katz  
Eileen Levy  
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*Administrator*, Lea Salem  
*Program Director*, Renée Bauer  
*Kadimah Head Teacher*, Phyllis Mintzer  
*Administrative Assistant*, Amy Clark

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*Adult Education*, Sue Bojdak  
*Archives*, open  
*ARZA contact*, Ron Lezell  
*Baby Chavurah*, Lisa Katz  
*Bequests and Donations*, Richard  
Inlander  
*Bikkur Cholim*, David Shaber  
*Bisexual Chavurah*, Jim Frazin  
*Book Group*, Mark Mackler  
*Brotherhood*, open  
*Bylaws*, Edward Pollock  
*Cemetery*, Richard Inlander  
*Children's Education Board*, Ruth  
Rainero  
*Cookbook Project*, Robin Leonard  
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*Mishkan Dolores Fundraising*,  
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*Rabbi Liaison*, Allan Gold  
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*Toddler/Pre-school Chavurah*, Ilana  
Bernstein  
*UAHC National Liaison*, Mike Rankin  
*UAHC Regional Liaison*, Daniel Chesir  
*WCGLJO Liaison*, Neil Grungras  
*Women's Chavurah*, open

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair  
are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.*

**Bikkur Cholim:** If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

**Member** of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and of the World Congress

of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

**Services** are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am — check calendar for each month.



**1 Friday**  
**5 Iyar**

- 7 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat service, led by Sarita Groisser
- 7:42 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Tazria-Metzora, led by Barak Gale and Inbal Kashtan, sermon by Barak Gale; commemoration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, oneg with Israeli music & dancing

**2 Saturday**  
**6 Iyar**

- 9:15 am, Kadimah (Daniel's Story program)
- 9:15 am, Torah Study at Congregation Emanu-El, leader TBA
- 2 pm, Adult B'nai Mitzvah class, 408 Urbano Dr.

**3 Sunday**  
**7 Iyar**

- 2 pm, Baby Chavurah, 185 Northwood
- 4 pm, New member potluck, 345 Church St.
- 7 pm, Internal Diversity Dialogue, Men at CSZ

**4 Monday**  
**8 Iyar**

- 6 pm, Healing service at Congregation Sherith Israel
- 7 pm, Children's Education Board

**5 Tuesday**  
**9 Iyar**

- 12:30 pm, Queer Talmud lunch, led by Rabbi Litman, 582 Market St., 10th floor
- 6:30 pm, Dues Committee
- 7:30 pm, Kippah-making class, 80 Pinehurst St.

**6 Wednesday**  
**10 Iyar**

- 7 pm, Architecture & Design Committee
- 7 pm, Advanced Biblical Hebrew class, 408 Urbano Dr.
- 7 pm, Newsletter editing
- 7 pm, Faith Talk with Rabbi Litman, Notre Dame Center
- 8 pm, Contemporary Jewish Thought class with Rabbi Litman, Notre Dame Center

**7 Thursday**  
**11 Iyar**

- 5:30 pm, First Generation cocktail hour, View Lounge Bar, Marriot Hotel, 55 4th St.

**8 Friday**  
**12 Iyar**

- 7:15 pm, Niggun service
- 7:48 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Aharei Mot-Kedoshim led by Dev Felder Noily, Kirsten Gustavson and Jonah Levy, sermon by Rabbi Litman; new-members welcome

**9 Saturday**  
**13 Iyar**

- 9 am, Torah study at St. Matthew's, led by Rabbi Litman
- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 10 am, Shabbat service led by Brian Besser and Noah Nacamulli
- 11:15 am, Kadimah open house
- 3 pm, HIV + Support Group

**10 Sunday**  
**14 Iyar**

- 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting, 345 Church St.
- 7 pm, Newsletter layout

**12 Tuesday**  
**16 Iyar**

- 7:30 pm, Kippah-making class, 80 Pinehurst St.

**13 Wednesday**  
**17 Iyar**

- 7 pm, Advanced Biblical Hebrew class, 408 Urbano Dr.
- 7 pm, Faith Talk with Rabbi Litman, Notre Dame Center
- 8 pm, Contemporary Jewish Thought class with Rabbi Litman, Notre Dame Center

**14 Thursday**  
**18 Iyar**  
**Lag B'Omer****15 Friday**  
**19 Iyar**

- 7:55 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, East Bay service
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Emor, led by Debby Gelber, Tiela Chalmers and Benjie Achtenberg, sermon by Tiela Chalmers

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

**16 Saturday**  
**20 Iyar**

- 9 am, Trail Midrash
- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 9:30 am, Torah study at Congregation Emanu-El, led by Rabbi Litman
- 9:45 am, First Generation Paramount Theatre tour, Broadway & 20th St., Oakland
- 10:30 am, "Learn What Our Children Learn" at Congregation Emanu-El
- 2 pm, Adult B'nai Mitzvah class, 408 Urbano Dr.
- 7:45 pm, Havdallah and Lag B'Omer bonfire on the beach

**17 Sunday**  
**21 Iyar**

- 10 am, Adult Education Committee, 1087 53rd St., Oakland
- 2 pm, Mishkan Dolores open house
- 3 pm, Congregational Annual Meeting at St. Matthews

**18 Monday**  
**22 Iyar**

- Healing service canceled
- 7 pm, Membership Committee

**19 Tuesday**  
**23 Iyar**

- 12:30 pm, Queer Talmud lunch, led by Rabbi Litman, 582 Market St., 10th floor
- 7 pm, "What Happens at a Jewish Service?" with Rabbi Litman
- 7:30 pm, Kippah-making class, 80 Pinehurst St.

**20 Wednesday**  
**24 Iyar**

- 7 pm, Advanced Biblical Hebrew class, 408 Urbano Dr.
- 7 pm, Faith Talk with Rabbi Litman, Notre Dame Center
- 8 pm, Contemporary Jewish Thought class with Rabbi Litman, Notre Dame Center

**21 Thursday**  
**25 Iyar**

- 7 pm, Bikkur Cholim Committee

**22 Friday**  
**26 Iyar**

- 8:01 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Behar-Behukkotai, led by Barak Gale and Danny Givertz

**23 Saturday**  
**27 Iyar**

- No Kadimah
- 9:30 am, Torah study, 127 Madrid St., led by Robin Leonard

**24 Sunday**  
**28 Iyar****25 Monday**  
**29 Iyar**

- Memorial Day
- Office closed

**26 Tuesday**  
**1 Sivan**

- 7 pm, "What Happens at a Lutheran Service?" with Pastor Bombosch
- 7:30 pm, Kippah-making class, 80 Pinehurst St.

**27 Wednesday**  
**2 Sivan**

- 7 pm, Advanced Biblical Hebrew, 408 Urbano Dr.

**28 Thursday**  
**3 Sivan**

- 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee, Harvey Milk School Library
- 7:30 pm, Service Leaders Initiative, Harvey Milk School Library

**29 Friday**  
**4 Sivan**

- 6 pm, HIV Group dinner
- 6:30 pm, Tot Shabbat brown bag dinner
- 7:15 pm, Tot Shabbat service, led by Greta Miskatel
- 8:06 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Bemidbar, led by Rabbi Litman, Eileen Levy and Noah Nacamulli; sermon by Rabbi Litman

**30 Saturday**  
**5 Sivan**

- No Torah Study
- 9:30 am, Kadimah closing day, Shavuot picnic with Tot Shabbat, location TBA
- 10 am, First Generation Torah brunch, location TBA
- 9 pm, Tikkun Leil Shavuot, all-night Torah study at St. Matthews

**31 Sunday**  
**6 Sivan**  
**Shavuot**



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